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Official Match Magazine of Crewe Alexandra A.F.C.



Football League Division Four
WIGAN ATHLETIC
Friday, 4th April, 1980
Kick-off 3.00 p.m. Match Magazine 20p.

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Odd Notes

The Association of Football League Commercial Managers recently announced their results for the Programme of the Year Awards for Season 1979/80. The overall winner of their judging which was undertaken by a panel of 9 judges comprising a journalist, a printer, three programme collectors and four commercial managers, turned out to be Norwich City, Crystal Palace were second and Wolverhampton Wanderers third. In fact, no club from the Third or Fourth Divisions came into the top 20.

When it came down to the various Divisional awards, in the Second Division it was Birmingham City on top with Fulham and Luton Town in second and third places. Down to Division Three and Sheffield Wednesday were winners with Wimbledon and Blackburn Rovers joint second. So far as our own Division are concerned Portsmouth were adjudged the winners with Wigan Athletic second and Aldershot, Newport County and Huddersfield Town all placed equal third.

Looking at the results as given, when you consider that the winning programme was awarded 142 points and the club placed in 20th position only gained 31 points then the Divisional awards for the Third and Fourth Division clubs must have been gained with very few points indeed.

With circulation figures in the higher divisions far outstripping those lower down, then to put things in perspective let these Divisions be judged quite independently of Divisions 1 and 2. Our own circulation figures have been quite satisfactory and at the same time the quality of the product has also been increased. By the time this Easter Holiday programme is over then it will be a question of planning ahead to the next campaign and looking at further ways to improve the programme.



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NEWS DESK



When the Home International Tournament is held after the season's fixtures have been completed, there is always a very keen demand for tickets especially when the ties involve England and Scotland whether it be at Wembley Stadium or Hampden Park. The last two games held at Wembley are unfortunately remembered for things other than the actual games themselves.

In an effort to curb the incidents which resulted in complaints from a variety of sources a special meeting was held to formulate plans to combat the problem. For many fans these games have been the ones they would always hope to get a ticket for and those which come to the clubs are without doubt over subscribed every time.

However, it has now been agreed that no tickets will be taken up by the Football League and this in consequence means that no allocation will therefore be made to any of the English League Clubs for the game at Hampden Park in May. If this does prevent the trouble,

then any sacrifice is worthwhile.

The match referee this afternoon is **DEREK W. LLOYD** (Fernhill Heath, Worcs). He commenced refereeing in 1956 and graduated through local Worcester and West Midland Regional Leagues to the Football League list. He lined the 1972 F.A. Amateur Cup Semi Final and also the E.U.F.A. Cup match — Hungary — in 1974. A married man with two children, he is training manager for a high pressure die casting company. Interested in all sports, he played amateur soccer for Stoke City and as a professional for Worcester City until a knee injury cut short his playing career. He has played football and cricket for Worcester Schools and football for Worcestershire F.A. at senior level. Is a qualified M.C.C. cricket coach to a local club and is Vice President of his works sports and social club.

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Welcome to our Visitors

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Back Row (left to right): Noel Ward, Ian Purdie (now Portsmouth), Derek Brownbill, John Brown, Bob Ward, Kevin Smart, Mike Quinn, John McDermott. Centre Row (left to right): Duncan Colquhoun (physiotherapist), Joe Hinnigan (now Sunderland), Jeff Wright, George Urquhart, Nigel Hart, Neil Davids, John Curtis, Frank Corrigan, Peter Houghton, Dave Fretwell, Kenny Banks (Trainer). Front Row (left to right): Tommy Gore, Alan Crompton, John Wilkie, Ian McNeill (Manager), Mr. A.O. Horrocks (Chairman), Micky Moore, Mark Wignall, David Glenn.

After finishing in sixth position in the League table in their first season in the Fourth Division, Wigan Athletic were hoping that they would have been able to get at least two places higher this season but it would seem that the gap between themselves and the top four is just a little too wide for them to do so. Their manager is **IAN McNEILL** whose own career started with Aberdeen. His career then took him to Leicester City, Brighton and Hove Albion and Southend United and then as manager of Ross County. Was also with Wigan when they were still in the Northern Premier League.

Several newcomers have come to the staff this season but first choice 'keeper **JOHN BROWN** did very well for them last season, he had previously been with Stockport County and Preston North End. **DAVID FRETWELL** came to Wigan on a free transfer early last season from Bradford City where he had made over 200 first team appearances for the Yorkshire side. A very cool and efficient professional who does an excellent job in the heart of the defence. Defender **JOE HINNIGAN** was recently the subject of a large transfer deal which took him to Sunderland, this move came as no surprise to the Wigan chief. **TOMMY GORE**. He has been the player of the year so far as the Wigan supporters are concerned for the last two seasons and was also runner up in the Fourth Division player of the year competition last season. He was released by Tranmere Rovers in 1974 and has been a regular player for Wigan Athletic ever since.

COLLIN METHVEN. When he moved to Wigan he was the club's highest signing for he came from Scottish Club East Fife for a fee of £30,000 in October last. No sooner had he settled in the side than he was appointed

captain. He is good in the air and is a strong tackler. **NEIL DAVIDS**. He came from Swansea City during last season but has also had League experience with other League clubs. A very determined defender. **FRANK CORRIGAN**. He was formerly with Northwich Victoria but also had a wealth of experience in their Northern Premier League side. A regular member of the side has quite a reputation for his strong running and extremely hard shooting. **JEFF WRIGHT**. He was an ever present during last season and always turns in a consistent performance. A very good distributor of the ball he also scores goals at vital stages of a game. A player to watch for the future. **PETER HOUGHTON**. A strong aggressive striker who was unlucky with injuries during the 1978/79 season. He scored 14 goals last season and hopes to do even better this time. Is attracting the interest of several clubs at the present time. **DAVID SHEARER** is on loan from Middlesbrough at the present time, he came just prior to the transfer deadline. **GEORGE URQUHART**. He is a recent signing from Ross County. He had some service with St. Mirren but now that he is a full time player he has improved tremendously. A very useful midfield player. **MICKY MOORE**. This is his second spell with the club, he left Wigan Athletic before they gained League status to join Port Vale but was unable to gain a regular place in the Vale side and returned to Wigan at the start of the 1978/79 season where he had a very good season. **TONY QUINN**. Was formerly a youth player with Everton and Liverpool and made quite an impact when he came into the League side. A very sharp player in the box and has scored quite a number of vital goals. Should have a very bright future in football.

Over the years, many Managers have made specific forecasts only for events to prove them wrong and when, after Nottingham Forest had lost their first leg tie with Dynamo Berlin their Manager Brian Clough appeared to be bold enough not only just to forecast that his side would win the away tie but convincingly as well then others in football believed that this time he would be wrong. As events have since proved, he was right on both counts and Nottingham Forest are now through to the semi final stage once more.

Trevor Francis who had to take a lot of criticism after the League Cup defeat by Wolves let the footballing world know that the price tag that was demanded when he moved from Birmingham City was justified for he scored the crucial opening goal and followed it up with another. That ice cool penalty taker John Robertson made no mistake when he had the opportunity to put them still further ahead and although he gave a penalty away himself early in the second half the margin was good enough to give them the opportunity to take on Ajax of Amsterdam in the semi final. Real Madrid also had a convincing win against Celtic and watching Laurie Cunningham in that game his game has certainly improved and when Ron Greenwood finally assembles his squad for the final stages of the European Competition in Italy then the additional experience of those English players now playing abroad should hopefully play a vital part.

How quickly the two years seem to have elapsed since Tottenham Hotspur brought the two Argentinians Vilas and Ardiles into English Football and for Kevin Keegan to make the move to S.V. Hamburg. Not every move involving either European footballers into this country or likewise our players moving abroad have had the same impact or indeed success. The one thing which appeared to be so fundamentally different is the rigid codes of discipline put on the players. The home produced players are naturally used to this but some English players have found this aspect somewhat difficult to accept. Language too can also prove to be a stumbling block for though some people are quite adept at picking up a language there are bound to be

others who find the position exactly the reverse.

When scouts and coaches, who week in week out scour the country looking for young players they too have to have a particular flair for although on the one hand they are able to see just what it is that makes one schoolboy footballer look so much better than another it is what will be there in say a couple of years time that is really important. Only the other weekend the England Junior Schoolboys side took on a representative team from Switzerland at Wembley and beat them 2-0. A youngster by the name of Wayne Bray from Bristol was England's man of the match and it would be safe to say that he is no doubt on someones books on Associated Schoolboys Forms. When you look through the various programmes issued for these particular games it is surprising how many of them you never seem to hear of in the future. There have to be exceptions and in some years more than an average number do finally make the grade but when the overall position is looked at regarding those who are offered apprentice terms on leaving school and the number who are released at the club it is to become a professional footballer. Even if statistics were published there are still bound to be those who will still wish to try to make the grade if at all possible.

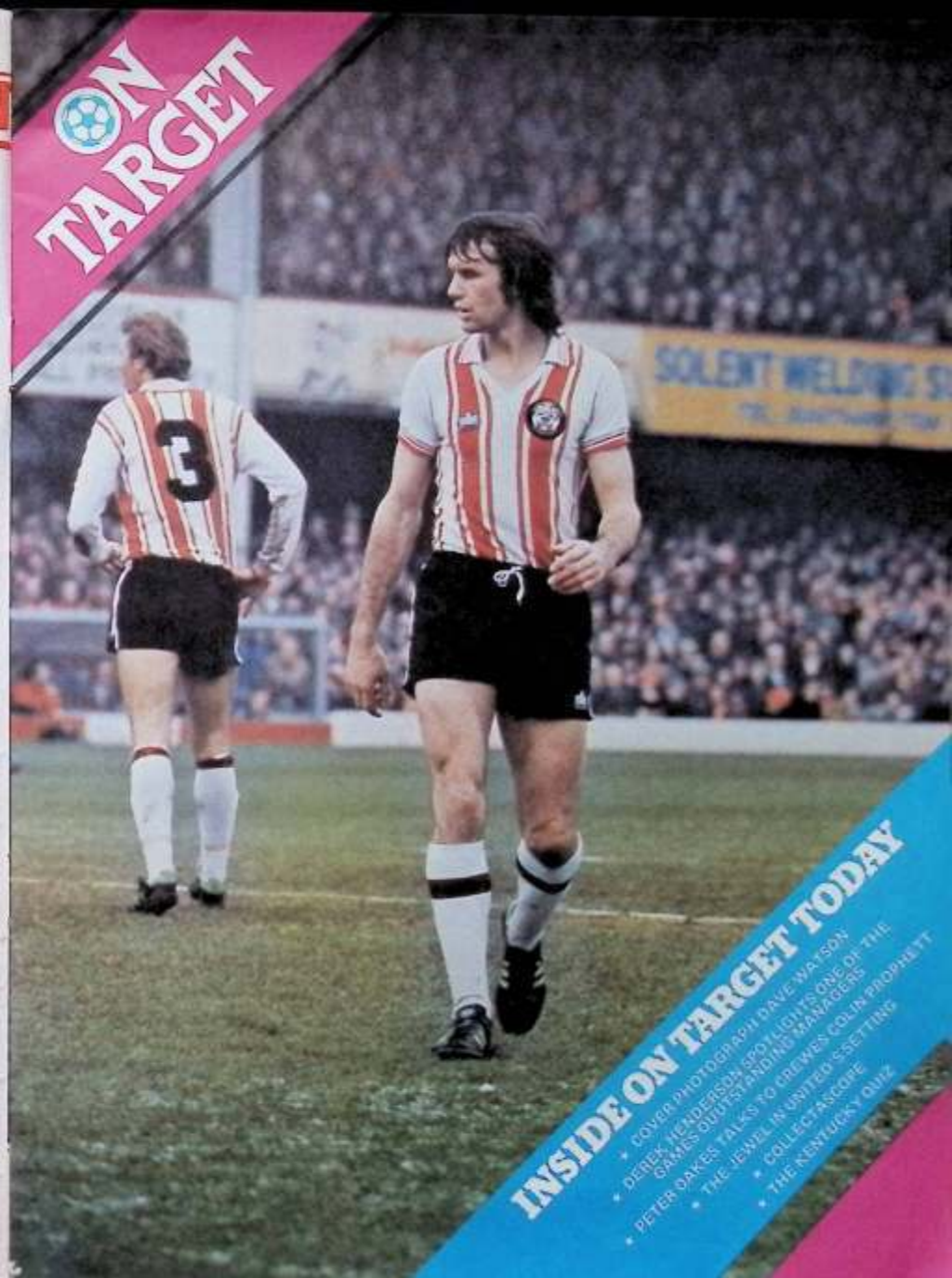
Although Leeds United are in no relegation danger their form in recent weeks has not had the fans flocking to Elland Road whenever they have been at home and when they met Coventry City it was down around the 14,000 mark. With attendances of this nature they must be well below the break even point required. Not for the first time the fans at Leeds have been giving vent to their feelings and the chants of 'Adamson out' are being heard with regularity these days. Whichever way you look at it, it is not easy, the fans want to see what they have been accustomed to for so long, a successful side, but on the other hand there is the position that unless finance comes into the club then it becomes increasingly difficult to find the type of transfer fees that are being demanded.

SUPPORTERS' SCENE

There are many incidents, players and particular results which are firmly implanted in the minds of Alex supporters irrespective of their ages, all it needs for the memories to come flooding back is to hear a name or perhaps to meet someone you may not have met for a long time.

Such an incident took place at Greysty Road prior to the fixture against Newport County when your writer saw someone in the tea room and thought 'I have seen that man somewhere before'. The same thought was going on in his mind and the visitor was the first to speak and simply said 'you know who I am don't you'. I thought for a minute and suddenly the name was on the tip of the tongue.

He was a former Manager of Crewe Alexandra and had spent years before that as a player not too far from Greysty Road. However, the incident which came to mind was one which was never expected. On Saturday 29th September, 1951, Crewe Alexandra were due to make the trip to Sincil Bank to play Lincoln City but before the game was played the Manager had been dismissed. The result at Sincil Bank was that never to be forgotten 11-1 reverse and the man in question was of course Arthur Turner who went on to manage Birmingham City and Oxford United. Now scouting for Sheffield United he looks remarkably fit and it was pleasant to meet him once more.



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DEREK HENDERSON *spotlights one of the game's outstanding young managers*

Mullery - South Coast Revival Man

The immediate impression that one gets from talking to Alan Mullery is that here is a man who is simply bursting with confidence.

This could easily be mistaken for arrogance or even sheer big-headedness, but that would be a miscalculation.

For Mullery has brought to the managerial field the same approach he brought to playing for Tottenham, Fulham and England.

Here is a man who is fully aware of his own capabilities, has supreme belief in himself and doesn't give a damn whether anyone misconstrues it or not.

It has certainly rubbed off on his team. For not so very long ago, after a disastrous start to the season, they were looking very much a case for the First Division undertaker. It was only going to be a matter of time before they were dead and buried.

Suddenly, they began picking up, and at the time of writing they look very much as if they will be able to stay in football's exalted company and continue to build an exciting club down there on the south coast.

Brighton, of course, have always had good potential support and there is no valid reason why they should not have the same impact on the game as did their fellow southerners Portsmouth, in the days after the last war, and more recently Southampton, under the guidance of that canny Georgie, Laurie McMenamy.

They have threatened to break into the big time before but always fallen short of requirements and drifted back into the lower divisions.

I can recall a horrendous start to their Second Division life in 1958 when they arrived there for the first time. Their opening fixture ended in a 9-0 defeat at Middlesbrough — which still stands as the club's record League setback.

Times have changed. Now, under the energetic leadership of their go-ahead chairman Mike Bamber, Brighton are beginning to make an impact and win respect, and Mullery must take the lion's share of any credit flying about.

He may not have been the best wing-half ever to put on an England shirt, but between 1965 and 1972 he collected a total of 35 caps and was always an industrious, tireless player whose contribution to the team effort was always notable.

One of his biggest disappointments must have been that 3-2 defeat by West Germany in the World Cup in Leon. Mullery scored on one of his finest international days, but the Germans went on to the semi-finals, only to lose themselves to Italy.

There is no doubt that part of Brighton's success under Mullery's influence is down to the striking ability of Peter Ward, a young man who has been given every encouragement for self-expression on the field by his manager.



Mullery is shrewd enough to know that you won't be able to survive in the atmosphere of Division 1 by not being adventurous. Like most young bosses he believes implicitly in going forward aggressively in search of goals, which in itself is a form of insulation against opponents' achieving anything.

I profoundly hope that Brighton stay up because I think it is good for the game for emerging teams to do well. The old-established centres have no divine right to continued membership of the best division.

There is a long way to go even yet. But Alan Mullery — a man who never loses sleep whatever the situation — can certainly slumber more sweetly than he did a few weeks ago.

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NEW FOOTBALL WEEKLY NEWS



On Target's PETE The Prophet of Boon

Colin Prophett is back home where he belongs.....

At 32 the wandering days are over and towards the end of a career that has seen him wear the colours of Sheffield Wednesday, Norwich City, Swindon Town and Chesterfield he's returned to the ground where it all began — Gresty Road, Crewe.

To the outsider Prophett's decision to join Crewe — then 92nd of 92 Football League sides — seemed a curious move. He had turned down the opportunity to help promotion-seeking Torquay despite long talks with manager Mike Green and instead agreed to join Tony Waddington in one of the toughest tasks in the land.

But to those who knew a little more about the hard-working Prophett it was a move that made sense. And none more so than to his family.

For Colin had been born in the Potteries town... spent his early days as an amateur on Alexandra's books.....and married a girl from Crewe.

Says Colin: "It's my hometown and I thought it would be nice to go back to Crewe, probably my last move that could be the start of something."

"There's only one way we could go — and that's up. I thrive on a challenge and if we can get clear of the bottom place this season then I'm sure we'll do well next year."

"We have got every chance of going places next year — the lads are sure of that."

The Prophett's return to Gresty Road also revived happy memories for his family — and his Dad in particular.

Revealed Colin: "Dad used to play cricket with Tony Waddington — and I was great mates with his son. Tony Waddington's been a personal friend of the family for years. He and Dad used to play together for Crewe Permanent Way, just down the road from Gresty Road. It was probably 20 years ago. Both by dad George and Tony played together so obviously our family relation-



COLIN PROPHETT

ship helped when I was asked to go back to Crewe.

"I had been an amateur there when I was still a teenager and played a few times for the first-team in the Floodlit League — but never in the Fourth Division. I worked at Rolls Royce but when I was 21 I left Crewe and signed for Sheffield Wednesday."

"Crewe didn't offer me terms so I suppose the manager at that time Ernie Tagg didn't fancy me."

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PROPHETT looks at Crewe at Gresty Road....



Now I'm back where I started."

The Prophett's [Colin and his wife have two daughters, Emma [4½] and Lisa [20 months],] are already looking for a home in Crewe and obviously his move has delighted the family.

Joked Colin: "We've already helped the gate. Dad had stopped going along to matches but now he's back there every week — and quite a few of the family are supporting us."

When Prophett rejoined Crewe the club's fortunes could not have been at a lower ebb.

They hadn't picked up a winning bonus in any of their first eight games and the day that Prophett signed the transfer form — Thursday October 18th — they were bottom of the table with only three points from thirteen matches.... a 2-1 home win over Northampton Town and a 2-2 draw against Torquay.

Away from home they'd lost all seven games and managed only two goals in the process.

Admitted Prophett: "Things couldn't have been any worse. My job was to try and help. I've got enough experience to know that you've got to believe in yourself to win games — that was one of the things missing from the side."

His own personality and willingness to take on the responsibility of helping to organise things at the back out on the field paid immediate dividends.

Even though he continued to train with his old club Chesterfield he immediately slotted into the back four and on his debut helped his new club to a 2-0 win over Rochdale.

That was followed by two successive defeats against promotion-chasing Walsall and Hartlepool but then came another home win, and less than a month after his move, an away draw at Newport — the first away point of the season.

With other new faces in the side — Mike Guy from Sheffield United, Colin Chesters from Derby County and on-loan goalkeeper Dave Felgate from Bolton Wanderers — there was a new optimism in the Crewe dressing room.

"We actually began thinking that we were going to go out onto the park to win," confided Prophett.

Prophett's arrival at Gresty Road not only sparked off a minor revival in the club's fortunes — it gave him a new challenge that he relishes overcoming.

"Every time I've moved clubs it's done me good because it's given me new impetus. Maybe I needed the challenge.

"I'd lost my place at Chesterfield and the future didn't look bright for me. Torquay did speak to me but I didn't fancy moving that far.

"Maybe had they come in for me when I was at Swindon I would have moved — but not from Chesterfield. I'm hoping that this is my last move — but you never know in football.

"I still think I've got three or four seasons left as a player and then I'd like to stay in the game — but that's a bridge I'll cross when I come to it.

"It's funny I've been having a long talk with our assistant manager Warwick Rimmer and he was telling me that the one thing you miss when you stop playing is actually the playing.

"He was saying that every week he gets the adrenalin flowing before a match and that you want to get out there and play. So I want to keep on playing...."

CLUB CALL: CREWE ALEXANDRA

Formed: 1877, turned professional 1893.

Honours: Promoted, 1967-68.

Record Victory: 8-0 v Rotherham United, October 1, 1932.

Record Defeat: 2-13 v Spurs, February 3, 1960.

Most League Appearances: Tommy Lowry, 436, 1966-78.

Most League Goals: Bert Swindells, 126, 1928-37.



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DEREK HENDERSON features Soccer's Quiet Man THE JEWEL IN UNITED'S SETTING

If you were to ask most students of Association Football to name the most gentlemanly, unassuming and least publicity-seeking manager in the First Division, I reckon Dave Sexton would win hands down.

But underneath that implacable, polite exterior there is a man of steel who knows what he wants, has emphatic ideas about the way the game should be played at top level, and is prepared to defend them in any discussion.

I cannot recall Dave Sexton ever blowing his top, reacting in any impassioned way to adverse comments, or even making statements calculated to arouse controversy in any quarter.

That is not to say he has never expressed views which are not conservative or do not conform to the straight and narrow.

But the man has a way with him. And when he is making such utterances, he does so in a way that it couldn't possibly offend.

It certainly makes a change after being belaboured with the abrasive views of some of our other chiefs who seem to have a volatile reaction to most subjects, and who are constantly in the headlines with their vividly-expressed opinions.

The only trouble is that Dave Sexton doesn't go chasing headlines — the media men have to go to him and persuade him to talk and this is why you will read less about Sexton and more about some of his contemporaries.

But ironically, some of those contemporaries aren't doing so well with their teams. Sexton lets Manchester United do his talking for him and that way suits him. It probably suits Manchester United, too, for they have always been a club of dignity.

Sexton is of the West Ham academy which produced players of the calibre of Phil Woosnam, Noel Cantwell, Frank O'Farrell, Malcolm Allison, John Bond, and Malcolm Musgrove who all later went on to be top managers and coaches. That's a terrific record of production as far as the Hammers are concerned.

Sexton always was a good coach, thoughtful and calculated but very impressive at work, as any player who has been under his charge will testify.

When he was Chelsea manager they won the F.A. Cup for the first time, and then the European Cup Winners Cup. But after two following years of struggle, he went the way of all managerial flesh.

That was in 1974 in the first week in October. Within a fortnight, London had seen a bout of managerial musical chairs with Gordon Jago going from QPR to Millwall, and Sexton joining QPR where he was to enjoy three good years.

It was in July, 1977 that events at Old Trafford heralded a big change in Dave's life. Manchester United sacked Tommy Docherty for what they described as a breach of contract. For his part, Docherty proclaimed "What I have done has got nothing at all to do with my track record as a manager".

In any event, 11 days later Sexton — on the brink of joining Arsenal as a coach having quit QPR — suddenly accepted United's offer to succeed Docherty and team up with Tommy Cavanagh, to whom they had given a new contract. It was the start of a worthwhile partnership.

Curiously enough, Sexton had followed Docherty to Chelsea in the sixties!

Dave's first few words on arriving at Old Trafford to take one of soccer's most coveted posts were:

"I want to see the team winning and playing attractively. Which comes first? It must be winning. I've got to be honest and say the image of Manchester United overawed me, but this job must be the peak of ambition for any manager."

My only lengthy conversation with Sexton, apart from post-match Press gatherings with him, was by the side of a swimming pool at a luxury hotel in Mexico City during the 1970 World Cup. It was fascinating just to listen to the man's theories about the game.

Of course his current goal is to lead United to their first League championship since 1967 with a team which I am sure has not yet fully matured.

Sexton goes quietly on with his job, United's fifth post-war manager. I fancy they know they have a jewel in their midst.

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SPORT & LEISURE

COLLECTASCOPE

By Don Smith Football Historian

A VIEW OF OUR SOCCER HERITAGE

"The song is ended but the melody lingers on" thus went one of the standard tunes. This edition of Collectascope we look at the various collectables associated with "Tin Pan Alley" and soccer crowds, the first association that would spring to mind would be a cup final crowd singing "Abide With Me", indeed that must be "Top of the Pops" with football crowds. On the "Daily Express" community song sheet for Cup Final day 1932, 'Abide With Me' was played last of the "Top Ten" that day. However, in the 1935 final tie it was followed by "Loves Old Sweet Song". Strangely in the 1951 and 1952 finals it was sung first!! Just how many of the old final song sheets still exist? I would hazard a guess not many, the main factor being the flimsy quality of paper used, about half the thickness of today's newspaper. Later song sheets from the 1950's finals are much more substantial with a picture of Wembley Stadium on the front, and the Union Jack on the reverse, which were waved frequently during the preliminaries and during the match.

Did these song sheets exist for other matches beside Wembley?, a question frequently put to me. I have quite a few for cup-ties, also international games but I doubt if any were issued for bread and butter league fixtures, I have in fact one only for a league game. It's a bit special, opening of Port Vale new stadium 24th August 1950, the match Port Vale v. Newport County. "Abide With Me" was number three that day.

Certain clubs are always associated with a song, Bristol Rovers great cup runs always bring forth "Goodnight Irene", West Hams "I'm For Ever Blowing Bubbles". Ted Fenton's book "At Home with the Hammers" published 1960 by Nicholas Kaye tells the significance of that song to the "Hammers". In the North East it's always "The Bladon Races". Yes I think that football and music go hand in hand.

Who knows the good, happy days might return with packed terraces in full voice, that would be something, it might even make our Welsh Rugby friends envious!!

Features are written by Don Smith of 15, Abingdon Road, Plymouth, Devon. Advice on any aspect of soccer memorabilia collecting invited, also items which you might wish to dispose of purchased.



Kentucky Fried Chicken COMPETITION

4 CHICKEN DINNERS TO BE WON

SOCCER QUIZ

by John Hughes, Editor of On Target

- 1 Which New York soccer team does not use a number 10 in its playing strip.
- 2 Name the player who wore this coveted number 10 jersey before his retirement.
- 3 Which Country did he represent at international level.
- 4 What colours do this international team play in.
- 5 What colours do the Argentine national side play in.
- 6 Name two of the Argentine national side currently playing for the same English team.
- 7 What colours do the Peruvian national side play in.
- 8 Which English First Division side did the legendary Ted Drake once score seven goals for.
- 9 What is this teams nickname.
- 10 What are the colours of this team.

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OPENING OF PORT VALE F.C. NEW STADIUM
PORT VALE F.C. NEWPORT COUNTY, 24th AUGUST, 1950

NEWS CHRONICLE
COMMUNITY SINGING
Compiled by JENNIE GATCHE, F.R.S.
introduced by
FOREN BARD
Musical Director: JOHN BARNESON. Conductor: JAMES BARNESON, F.R.S.

1 TOP OF THE POPS The song is ended but the melody lingers on This edition of Collectascope we look at the various collectables associated with "Tin Pan Alley" and soccer crowds, the first association that would spring to mind would be a cup final crowd singing "Abide With Me", indeed that must be "Top of the Pops" with football crowds. On the "Daily Express" community song sheet for Cup Final day 1932, 'Abide With Me' was played last of the "Top Ten" that day. However, in the 1935 final tie it was followed by "Loves Old Sweet Song". Strangely in the 1951 and 1952 finals it was sung first!! Just how many of the old final song sheets still exist? I would hazard a guess not many, the main factor being the flimsy quality of paper used, about half the thickness of today's newspaper. Later song sheets from the 1950's finals are much more substantial with a picture of Wembley Stadium on the front, and the Union Jack on the reverse, which were waved frequently during the preliminaries and during the match.	3 GOOD NIGHT IRENE Bristol Rovers great cup runs always bring forth "Goodnight Irene", West Hams "I'm For Ever Blowing Bubbles". Ted Fenton's book "At Home with the Hammers" published 1960 by Nicholas Kaye tells the significance of that song to the "Hammers". In the North East it's always "The Bladon Races". Yes I think that football and music go hand in hand.
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GEORGE FOLLERS, whose signature is on "Don't Stop" HERE HAS REPORT OF TODAY'S MATCH IN TO-BEFORE
NEWS CHRONICLE



Number 1

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COMMERCIAL

Scene

After a wait of ten months, the Promotions Department finally moved into their new premises a fortnight ago. There are still a lot of jobs to be done to completely finish the shop and offices, but they are a vast improvement on the very cramped accommodation we had when we were adjacent to the Social Club. It was originally hoped that we would be in a position to re-stock on our souvenir lines, but with only four home matches left it has been decided to withhold on re-stocking until the new season. There is however a very lively programme shop, and anyone wishing to peruse the vast range of programmes available are invited to call at the shop after today's game. You will find the shop situated directly opposite the main entrance to the Football Club itself.

A week yesterday, the 101 Committee held another highly successful Race Night in the North Ward WMC. Thanks are extended to the 101, and to the Committee of the North Ward Club for their excellent facilities. Special thanks to the Race Sponsors for their

generous support. They were:- Seaton & Bridge Construction, Cheshire Sports Equipment Ltd., Progressive Print Ltd. Mr. J. Meakin, Wells Green Frozen Foods, A True Alex Supporter.

Having spoken to many of my counterparts up and down the country, it would seem that everyone has noticed a fall off in support of their lotteries. The same thing has happened here, but I would gather that we have not suffered as much as some. Our thanks go to our Agents for doing their utmost to maintain sales, to our tireless sales staff, and of course to you the supporter for your continued interest. Remember your support for the Lottery will help to build a better Crewe Alexandra. If you think you can help to increase the sale of lottery tickets, or indeed sell a few Bingo tickets each week, simply phone myself, or Fred O'Brien on Crewe 56557, and we will help you to get started.



FOOTBALL RULES OK!



No2/ of a series

Before the Big Match the pitch is inspected. Both team Captains declare they are happy to play and are looking forward to the clash, as are 50,000 fans on their way to the ground. The Ref., however, after his own inspection decides the game is off. The Captains protest and say they will go to a higher authority. Can they do this?



No. The Referee's decision as to the state of the pitch is final.

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ALEX ACTION



Mick Guy tries to find a way through. (Photo courtesy of Wigan Athletic F.C.)



Gary Plumley punches clear from Mark Palios.



Peter Coyne in a solo duel with a Newport defender



A solid wall of defenders foils the Alex attack once again. All photos courtesy of Robert Sproston.

FIXTURES 1979-80

			Res.	Att.	Pts.	Pos.	Scorers
1979	Aug. 11	Huddersfield (LC1)	A	1-2	2,994	—	Davies
	Aug. 15	Huddersfield (LC1)	H	1-3	3,920	—	Nelson
	Aug. 18	Bradford City	A	0-4	3,668	—	—
	Aug. 22	Lincoln City	H	0-2	2,238	—	—
	Aug. 24	Torquay United	H	2-2	2,165	1	Nelson, Hunter
	Sept. 1	Halifax Town	A	1-3	1,418	1	Hunter
	Sept. 7	Port Vale	H	0-2	4,532	1	—
	Sept. 15	Peterborough United	A	0-3	4,525	1	—
	Sept. 19	Huddersfield Town	H	1-3	2,104	1	Nelson
	Sept. 22	Aldershot	A	0-3	3,227	1	—
	Sept. 29	Northampton Town	H	2-1	1,909	3	Chesters, Coyne
	Oct. 2	Huddersfield Town	A	0-3	5,788	3	—
	Oct. 6	Doncaster Rovers	H	1-2	2,448	3	Nelson (pen)
	Oct. 10	Lincoln City	A	0-3	3,335	3	—
	Oct. 13	Hereford United	A	0-2	3,030	3	—
	Oct. 20	Rochdale	H	2-1	2,129	5	Guy, Chesters
	Oct. 24	Walsall	H	1-2	3,502	5	Guy
	Oct. 27	Hartlepool United	A	1-3	2,608	5	Nelson
	Nov. 3	Bradford City	H	2-0	2,952	7	Guy 2
	Nov. 6	Walsall	A	0-1	4,125	7	—
	Nov. 10	Newport County	A	1-1	4,718	8	Chesters
	Nov. 17	Darlington	H	0-0	2,336	9	—
	Nov. 24	Altrincham (F.A.C. 1)	A	0-3	5,001	—	—
	Nov. 30	Stockport County	A	1-2	3,008	9	Scott
1980	Dec. 7	A.F.C. Bournemouth	H	0-0	1,974	10	—
	Dec. 21	Wigan Athletic	A	0-2	4,316	10	—
	Dec. 26	Tranmere Rovers	H	0-0	2,597	11	—
	Dec. 29	Torquay United	A	0-1	3,829	11	—
	Jan. 12	Halifax Town	H	2-1	2,579	13	Scott, Hunter
	Jan. 26	York City (4)	A	2-2	2,460	14	Conroy, Hunter
	Feb. 1	Peterborough United	H	1-4	2,924	14	Nelson (pen)
	Feb. 9	Aldershot	H	1-0	2,187	16	Nelson
	Feb. 12	Portsmouth	H	1-1	3,317	17	Guy
	Feb. 16	Northampton Town (5)	A	0-1	1,952	17	—
	Feb. 20	Port Vale	A	0-2	6,655	17	—
	Feb. 23	Hereford United	H	1-0	2,528	19	Palios
	Mar. 1	Rochdale	A	0-0	1,820	20	—
	Mar. 4	Scunthorpe United	A	1-1	1,903	21	Nelson
	Mar. 8	Hartlepool United (6)	H	2-1	2,425	23	McMahon, Palios
	Mar. 22	Newport County	H	0-3	2,592	23	—
	Mar. 29	Darlington	A	—	—	—	—
	April 4	Wigan Athletic	H	—	—	—	—
	April 5	Tranmere Rovers	A	—	—	—	—
	April 7	Scunthorpe United	H	—	—	—	—
	April 8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	April 12	Portsmouth (SF)	A	—	—	—	—
	April 19	Stockport County	H	—	—	—	—
	April 22	Doncaster Rovers	A	—	—	—	—
	April 26	A.F.C. Bournemouth	A	—	—	—	—
	May 3	York City	H	—	—	—	—
	May 10	F.A. Cup Final	—	—	—	—	—

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Monday, 7th April, Fourth
Division SCUNTHORPE UTD
kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Saturday, 19th April, Fourth
Division v STOCKPORT C.
kick-off 3.00 pm.

Lancashire League

1979		Fixtures	
Aug. 18	Rochdale Res.	H	2-1
Aug. 24	(Fri) Tranmere R. Res.	A	1-3
Sep. 1	Oldham Ath. Res.	H	0-1
Sep. 5	(Wed.) Manchester U. "A"	H	1-2
Sep. 8	Southport Res.	A	1-1
† Sep. 15	Port Vale Res.	H	2-2
Sep. 22	Macclesfield T. Res.	H	2-1
Sep. 29	Manchester U. "A"	A	0-0
Oct. 6	Wrexham Res.	A	2-1
† Oct. 13	Manchester C. "A"	H	1-2
† Oct. 27	Altrincham Res.	H	0-1
Nov. 3	Bolton W. "A"	A	1-0
† Nov. 10	Southport Res.	H	post.
Nov. 17	Everton "A"	A	0-4
Nov. 24	Macclesfield T. Res.	A	0-0
Dec. 1	Carlisle U. Res.	H	3-0
Dec. 15	Burnley "A"	A	post.
Dec. 22	Bradford C. Res.	A	0-2
Dec. 29	Chester "A"	H	post.
1980			
† Jan. 1	(Tues.) Burnley "A"	H	post.
Jan. 5	Carlisle U. Res.	A	post.
Jan. 12	Port Vale Res.	A	0-4
† Jan. 19	Wigan Ath. Res.	H	post.
Jan. 26	Everton "A"	H	1-2
Feb. 2	Morecambe Res.	A	post.
Feb. 9	Manchester C. "A"	A	post.
Feb. 16	Chester "A"	A	3-1
Feb. 23	Rochdale Res.	11.00 A	post.
Mar. 1	Bradford C. Res.	A	2-2
Mar. 8	Altrincham Res.	A	2-2
Mar. 15	Liverpool "A"	A	2-5
Mar. 22	Liverpool "A"	A	0-2
† Mar. 25	Wrexham Res.	H	3-0
Apr. 4	(Fri.)	H	
Apr. 5	Morecambe Res.	H	
Apr. 7	(Mon) Stockport C. "A"	A	
† Apr. 8	(Tues.) Bolton W. "A"	H	
Apr. 12	Stockport C. "A"	H	
Apr. 19	Oldham Ath. Res.	A	
† Apr. 26	Tranmere R. Res.	H	
May 3	Wigan Ath. Res.	A	

10N Middlewich Athletic's Ground

Fourth Division Review

The game between Portsmouth and the current leaders Walsall once more attracted a gate of over 20,000 to Fratton Park but the end result was a great disappointment to the home fans — their third home defeat of the season. Jeff Hemmerson had equalised for them in the second half but an Alan Buckley penalty settled the issue for the visitors and increased their lead at the top to 7 points.

Huddersfield Town and Bradford City shared the points in a goalless draw before the day's second highest gate of almost 15,000. What has happened to Torquay United recently, not so very long ago they looked as though they may have got into the top four but a sharp loss of form has seen them come down to 11th place.

Had Northampton's away form been anything like as good as their home form then they must have gained promotion, as it is they have climbed to eighth place in the table with 40 points, 31 of these having been gained at home. The latest team to go away pointless were Darlington going down 2-0.

	Goals					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	A		
Walsall	38	21	15	2	63	33	57
Huddersfield	37	20	10	7	79	40	50
Portsmouth	38	19	10	9	77	43	48
Bradford	37	19	10	8	65	45	48
Newport	36	20	6	10	67	41	46
Peterborough	38	18	9	11	50	36	45
Lincoln	38	14	13	11	52	39	41
Northampton	38	15	10	13	47	54	40
Aldershot	37	15	9	13	53	41	39
Wigan	35	15	9	11	55	52	39
Torquay	35	13	11	11	55	50	37
Hartlepool	36	13	8	15	52	50	34
AFC Bournemouth	37	9	16	12	41	42	34
Tranmere	37	12	10	15	46	47	34
Halifax	36	12	10	14	35	45	34
Doncaster	36	11	10	15	52	54	32
Stockport	37	11	10	16	37	60	32
York	38	11	9	18	55	70	31
Hereford	37	10	10	17	34	44	30
Port Vale	37	10	10	17	45	56	30
Scunthorpe	35	10	10	15	42	62	30
Darlington	36	7	15	16	42	62	29
Crewe	37	7	9	21	26	62	23
Rochdale	36	5	11	20	29	70	21

APPEARANCES

Name	L.Cup	League	FACup	Sub
IAN ASHWORTH	2	7	—	4
PHIL BEAL	2	4	—	—
PAUL BEVAN	—	14	—	3
DANNY BOWERS	2	36	1	—
PAUL BOWLES	1	6	—	—
COLIN CHESTERS	—	16	1	—
TERRY CONROY	—	7	—	—
PETER COYNE	2	18	1	3
DAI DAVIES	2	15	—	3
KEVIN DULSON	—	5	—	4
DAVID FELGATE	—	14	—	—
WAYNE GOLDTHORPE	—	—	—	1
BRUCE GROBBELAAR	—	15	—	—
MICK GUY	—	30	1	—
GEOFF HUNTER	2	32	1	1
KEVIN LEWIS	2	24	—	4
JOHN McMAHON	—	19	1	—
DENNIS NELSON	1	33	1	2
MARK PALIOS	—	12	—	—
JOHN PHILLIPS	2	6	—	—
BERNARD PURDIE	2	9	—	1
COLIN PROPHET	—	24	1	—
KEVIN RAFFERTY	—	2	1	—
BOB SCOTT	2	32	1	1
MICHAEL TUNE	—	—	—	1
NEIL WILKINSON	—	28	1	1

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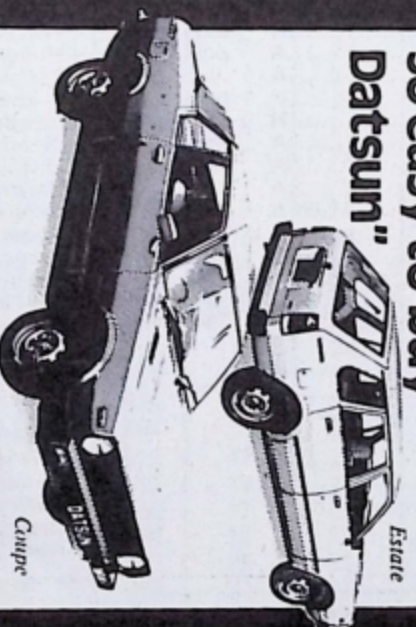
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- 4 Kevin Lewis.....
- 5 Bob Scott.....
- 6 Colin Prophet.....
- 7 John McMahon.....
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- 12

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- 9 Peter Houghton.....
- 10 David Shearer.....
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